

eventually published, with the help of the revolutionary novelist George Orwell after two rejections and one failure.

# BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS OF FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

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part and supplement during his lifetime.

Darlington, as editor, was extremely helpful to authors, making a clear-cut decision at the first and doing all the editorial work himself; he made constructive suggestions for improvements in the presentation, often by diagrams and tables. He never fell to the levels of improving a paper by pedantic quibbles. His most important advice before a paper was written was: write the summary in as finished a form as possible before committing any other part to paper.

As president of the Genetical Society (1943-46) he influenced the course of genetics in Britain when he transformed the year book by including a list of relevant journals, research institutes and university departments concerned with genetics and cytology, a miniature of Darlingtonian synthesis. After the war he arranged for European geneticists to meet in Britain, the first international gathering of geneticists since the ill-fated Congress of Genetics held in Edinburgh in September 1939.

Despite all his political and publishing interests he did not neglect science, for apart from second editions of his own books, books jointly with colleagues appeared that were of great value to the professional biologist. *The handling of chromosomes* with La Cour was a treatise on

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